



**NEWS RELEASE**

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## **The Woodlands Township COVID-19 Update, Friday, May 1, 2020**

### ***Township News***

#### **The Woodlands Township Board Holds Videoconference Meeting**

The Woodlands Township Board of Directors discussed opening up the community during its special meeting via videoconference on Thursday, April 30, 2020. Chairman Gordy Bunch discussed the White House Guidelines for “Opening Up America Again” and The Governor’s Report to Open Texas. “We’re looking forward to getting amenities and facilities opened in the safest manner possible,” Chairman Bunch said. “We want to make sure we’re as safe as can be and also get our residents back to doing the things they love to do in The Woodlands.”

His presentation can be found at this [link](#).

Beginning Friday, May 1, 2020, in-store retail, shopping malls, dine-in restaurants, movie theatres, museums and libraries may operate at up to 25% of listed occupancy. Individuals may engage in outdoor sports with no more than four participants at any time. Sole proprietorships may open. Licensed medical professionals (e.g. physicians, dentists) may open.

Some questions have been raised concerning if bars, gyms, public swimming pools, interactive amusement venues (e.g. bowling alleys), massage establishments, tattoo studios, piercing studios and salons could be opened on Friday. Attorney General Ken Paxton released a guidance letter responding to questions from local governments regarding these businesses and asking whether local governments may allow businesses to reopen as defined under Governor Abbott’s executive order. General Paxton’s guidance indicates that local governments are prohibited from allowing these types of businesses to reopen at this time under the Governor’s order. The full letter can be found [here](#).



### **Township Amenities Re-Open with Limitations**

Pursuant to Gov. Greg Abbott's plan for the re-opening of Texas, the Township has re-opened certain amenities and recreational areas as of May 1, 2020.

Township parks are open with limitations, Lake Woodlands and Lake Paloma are open, pathways and trails are open, tennis courts are open with modifications, park restrooms are open and community gardens are open with restricted access. Amenities that are open include: skate spots, the archery range, kayak launches, BMX areas, bocce, horseshoe pits, pavilions, benches, BBQ pits, disc golf at Terramont Park and running/walking tracks.

Although these facilities are open during Phase One, the Township encourages residents to continue to observe safe social distancing and hygiene practices. Wear a face covering whenever possible, wash your hands frequently and use hand sanitizer when out, avoid touching your face and observe a 6-foot distance from anyone who is not a member of your household.

The Township will be opening Riva Row Boat House with kayak and swan boat rentals in the next few days. More information to come.

### **Dog Parks in The Woodlands to Remain Closed**

Dog parks are unfortunately closed at this point. The parks are located in Bear Branch, Cattail, Terramont, Harper's Landing, Tamarac, and Rob Fleming parks. According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), until more is learned about how this virus affects animals, treat pets as you would other human family members to protect them from a possible infection.

- Avoid dog parks or public places where a large number of people and dogs gather.
- Do not let pets interact with people or other animals outside the household.
- Walk dogs on a leash, maintaining at least 6 feet from other people and animals.
- Keep cats indoors when possible to prevent interaction with other animals or people.



## Board Stresses Importance of CDC Guidelines of Social Distancing and Facial Coverings

[Watch a video as Township Chairman Gordy Bunch encourages wearing face masks](#)

## County News

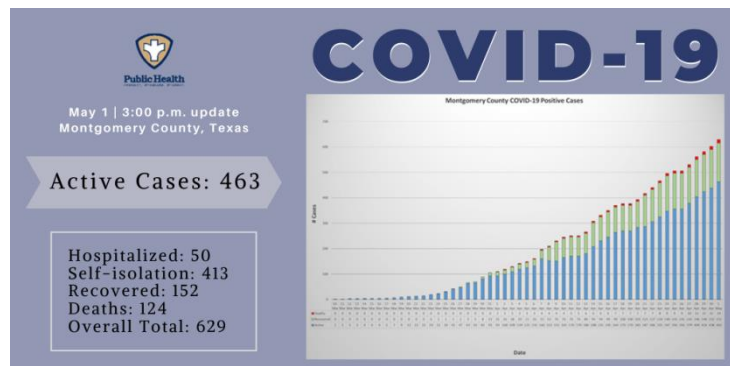
### Montgomery County COVID-19 Case Count

Montgomery County Public Health District, in conjunction with Montgomery County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, is saddened to confirm our 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> deaths related to COVID-19. A woman in her 60s, from Conroe, died in a local hospital. Also, a man in his 90s, from Porter, died in a long-term care facility.

We can also confirm there are now 463 ACTIVE cases of COVID-19. That number includes 50 hospitalizations. 152 people have fully recovered. The number of total positive cases has increased 27 since yesterday to 629.

Details on individual cases can be found here: <https://mcphd-tx.org/coronavirus-covid-19/confirmed-cases/>.

Montgomery County Office of Emergency Management updates a dashboard for the cases here: <https://coronavirus-response-moco.hub.arcgis.com/>.



### Harris County COVID-19 Case Count

As of May 1, 2020 (4 p.m.), Harris County Public Health (HCPH) has 2,831 positive cases (1,193 **active** cases). HCPH is also confirming that 1,576 of its patients have recovered. There have been 62 total deaths of COVID-19 in Harris County. None of these numbers include the City of Houston. A full description of the numbers can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/tzymvk5>

Cases by zip code in Harris County can be found here by clicking on [areas of the map](#).



The Village of Creekside Park is located in two zip codes: 77375 and 77389 and these also include Magnolia, Augusta Pines/Auburn Lakes/West Rayford Road in northwest Harris County. Today, Harris County is reporting zip code 77375 has 43 cases and 77389 has 36 cases.

### **Harris County Simplified COVID-19 Assessment Tool for Testing**

Harris County Public Health (HCPH) has revamped its COVID-19 online self-assessment tool to streamline the COVID-19 testing process. The online tool can be found at: [www.readyharris.org](http://www.readyharris.org) or [www.hcphtx.org](http://www.hcphtx.org) (or <https://covidcheck.hctx.net>). Learn more about the assessment tool [here](#).

### **Current Status of Hospital Availability**

Residents in The Woodlands can take comfort in the fact that hospitals in The Woodlands and Southeast Texas region are prepared to handle the COVID-19 pandemic.

This is evidenced in data summarized by the Southeast Texas Regional Advisory Council (SETRAC) which provides medical leadership in our region regarding the care of trauma and acute care patients. SETRAC is keeping daily count of hospital bed availability, ventilator usage and other key factors within the Southeast Texas area.

As reflected in SETRAC data, Houston Methodist The Woodlands, Memorial Hermann The Woodlands and St. Luke's The Woodlands have more than adequate capacity to handle an increase in COVID-19 cases.

Hospital data from the 25-county SETRAC region is available for the following categories:

- Daily Admissions
- General Bed Usage
- ICU Usage
- Ventilator Usage
- COVID Related Census

Viewers can [review these numbers regionally or at the county level](#).

## ***FDA News***



### **Helpful Questions and Answers about Coronavirus (COVID-19) and Your Pets**

You have probably seen and heard a lot about the coronavirus (COVID-19) and how to keep you and your family safe. But what about the other, furrier members of the family—your pets? The U.S. Food and Drug Administration offers some questions and answers to help keep you, your family, and your pets safe during the pandemic. Please read the helpful information from the [Food and Drug Administration](#).

## ***Around the Township***





### **#Township Together**

The Woodlands Township is calling on residents to share any images of inspiration with the community. These can be a photo of something seen in the neighborhood, a family project or anything with a positive message. These will be shared through the Township email updates, social media channels and on [The Woodlands Township website](https://www.thewoodlandstx.gov).

### **The Woodlands Mall Set to Reopen May 5, 2020**

Pursuant to Governor Abbott's Executive Order GA-18, The Woodlands Mall will be reopening to the public on May 5, 2020. The operating hours will be Monday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 6 p.m. For more information, including minimum recommended health protocols, follow this link to the Governor's Report to Open Texas: <https://bit.ly/3eWmjCm>.



### **Some retailers in Market Street opening Friday, May 1, 2020**

Market Street is reporting that some of its retailers will be opening Friday, May 1, 2020, but not the entire facility. It will be a gradual approach over the next 30 days.





## Retail-To-Go

Visit The Woodlands, the official destination marketing organization for The Woodlands, has launched a Retail To Go Program promoting storefront retail businesses in The Woodlands Township following Governor Abbott's Executive Order establishing a Strike Force to open Texas.

"Our local retailers and restaurants have all been proactive and managed to change their business models in response to this global pandemic," said Visit The Woodlands Chairman Bruce Rieser. "Here at Visit The Woodlands, we're committed to supporting and promoting those efforts. Our team continues to create new content that will bring the hospitality message to our residents on behalf of our partners and help ensure their success."

Retail to-go with curbside pickup is now available in a growing number of stores in The Woodlands. For more information, click here: <https://visitthewoodlands.com/blog/retail-to-go-in-the-woodlands/>



## Experience The Woodlands with Safe Social Distancing

Looking to try new restaurants or shops while social distancing? Save this passport to your phone and check off these "destinations" as you support dining and shopping options in The Woodlands. You can visit these destinations by making [purchases from local stores](#) and [ordering from area restaurants](#). Post your progress to encourage your friends and neighbors to participate. Snap photos of your food and purchases and be sure to share them on social media, tagging the business and using #SoWoodlands.

Take part in our virtual passport program by supporting restaurants and businesses in The Woodlands.

Shopping Guide: [www.visitthewoodlands.com/shoplocal](http://www.visitthewoodlands.com/shoplocal)

Dining Guide: [www.visitthewoodlands.com/eatlocal](http://www.visitthewoodlands.com/eatlocal)



## Things to Do at Home

From having your own film festival at home to virtual puzzles and more, *Visit The Woodlands* has created a guide for things you can enjoy while at home. If you need ideas on ways to keep busy at home, head to [www.visitthewoodlands.com/athome](http://www.visitthewoodlands.com/athome)



## **Community Resources**

Jobs, Food Banks,  
Hotlines



### **Community Resources**

Numerous resources are available in the community for support. These vary from food banks to financial assistance and much more. Please visit the link below to find more information about resources in the community related to COVID-19:

<http://thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov/1491/Community-Resources>.



### **Upcoming Blood Drives**

Please give to the Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center. Every donation can help save as many as three lives. For more information, please visit [giveblood.org](http://giveblood.org).

#### **THE WOODLANDS NEIGHBORHOOD DONOR CENTER**

3091 College Park Drive  
The Woodlands, TX 77384  
(936) 321-8440

#### **Mobile Opportunity:**

#### **THE WOODLANDS COUNTRY CLUB BLOOD DRIVE**

Wednesday, May 6th, 2020  
100 Grand Fairway Drive  
The Woodlands, TX 77381  
10am - 4pm





### Children's Safe Harbor

With the stay-at-home orders due to COVID-19, it has become one of the most dangerous times for children at risk for potential abuse given the financial and emotional stress that families are going through. Isolation is a huge risk. Children's Safe Harbor serves children who have been sexually assaulted, severely physically abused, sexually trafficked or exploited or traumatized and advocates for their justice and healing. The organization is in need of gift cards, tutors and food to give to the families they serve. Please visit [www.ChildrensSafeHarbor.org](http://www.ChildrensSafeHarbor.org) for more information and how to help.



COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE CENTER  
*Serving Montgomery County*

### Community Assistance Center

The Montgomery County Community Assistance Center is seeking help through monetary and in-kind donations and through volunteers. [View the flyer to learn more.](#)



### Interfaith Requesting Help

The following are needs for Interfaith of The Woodlands:

#### **Funding:** Funding to be used for the following:

- To purchase bulk, specific and essential foods, toiletries and paper goods for food assistance for families and Seniors.
- Provide financial assistance (i.e. rent, mortgage, utilities, gas cards and prescription assistance) to families and Seniors.

Monetary Donations can be made here:

<https://interfaith-of-the-woodlands.snwbll.com/covid-19-community-response>

**Food Donations:** Interfaith is actively accepting food donations of: cereal, canned meat, dry pasta, vegetables and fruit, snacks for kids, peanut butter, jelly, meal starters, soups, crackers, toiletries, paper goods including toilet paper and cleaning supplies. Donations will be accepted on Wednesdays from 9-11 am at Interfaith Central, 4242 Interfaith Way.

**Encouragement Cards for Seniors and Healthcare workers:** We are accepting cards for Seniors and Healthcare workers to help bring sunshine to their day! All cards donated will be delivered to our Senior neighbors during grocery delivery and to local hospitals. You can mail your cards



or drive through and drop off at our office at 4242 Interfaith Way, The Woodlands, 77381.

**Mosaics of Mercy Needs Assistance in the Following Areas:**

- 1) Donation to support our mission of being a central hub for mental health resources for our community
- 2) Sponsorship for our weekly podcast- Hope Pieced Together (\$350/episode- and they are thanked for their sponsorship via social media, during the podcast, and in the show notes)
- 3) Getting the word out about Mosaics of Mercy and that we are available to help people navigate mental health resources. Options:
  - Assist us with marketing
  - Share our website with your friends and contacts
  - Share our social media posts
  - Share our podcasts
- 4) Donate a mosaic heart to be sent to someone in the community that is struggling (Done through the donate page of our website)
- 5) Display a mosaic heart and our information in your place of business to continue to get the word out that mental health resources are available.

Please visit [www.mosaicsofmercy.com](http://www.mosaicsofmercy.com) for additional information.

**The Township's Coronavirus page**

The Woodlands Township's special COVID-19 information page can be found at [www.thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov/covid19](http://www.thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov/covid19). This page features Montgomery and Harris county Hubs, community resources and updated COVID-19 news from the Federal Government and the CDC. This page also includes the latest news from The Township, updates from partner agencies, social distancing strategies, important links, frequently asked questions, live Twitter feeds and more.

**Hotlines for health questions and COVID-19**

*Montgomery County: 936-523-5040*

*Harris County: 713-634-1110*

*Statewide Mental Health Support Line: 833-986-1919*

**Free Self-Screening Tool for COVID-19**

Visit the self-screening tool on the CDC website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.



**Tracking COVID-19: Local, Regionally, Nationally, Internationally**

**Below** are the widgets for tracking COVID19.

- [Montgomery County](#)
- [Texas Counties Statewide](#)
- [Texas Department of Health and Human Services Case Counts](#)
- [Global Cases](#)

**Stay Connected**

Please stay connected to The Woodlands Township through our many communications channels. Learn more and sign up at [www.thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov/stayinformed](http://www.thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov/stayinformed).

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*The Woodlands Township publishes this update to inform residents and businesses regarding the COVID-19 and its impact on The Woodlands Township. Please sign up for Township news and notifications at [www.thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov/notifyme](http://www.thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov/notifyme).*